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CZECHOSLOVAK PLAN FULFILLMENT IN 1954

[Comment: This report presents information on 1954 Czechoslovak plan fulfillment, published in the 15 March 1955 issue of Planovane Hospodarstvi (Planned Economy), issued by the State Planning Office (Statni urad planovaci) in Prague.]

Industrial Production

During 1954, certain adjustments in Czechoslovak gross industrial production plans were made in accordance with inventories of industrial raw materials, [semifinished?] materials, and finished products. The adjusted plan was fulfilled 102.5 percent.

Individual ministries fulfilled the gross industrial production plan for 1954 as follows:

<u>Ministry</u>	<u>Fulfillment (%)</u>
Fuel and Power	102
Fuel Branch only	103
Metallurgy and Ore Mines	99.8
Chemical Industry	103
Engineering	98
Construction	107
Forests and Lumber Industry	102
Light Industry	105
Food Industry	102
Industrial enterprises of the Ministry of Transportation	107
Industrial enterprises of the Ministry of Local Economy	117
Industrial enterprises of other ministries and central organs	109
Producer Cooperatives	103

Production of the following industrial products during 1954 was greater than planned: hard coal (kamene uhli); brown coal (hnede uhli); illuminating gas; gasoline; diesel oil, rough profile steel (medium grade); galvanized and lacquered sheet metal; copper; high-voltage and special light bulbs; automatic telephone centrals; vertical boring mills and drilling machines; coal chutes for mines; "Z-25" tractors; some types of tractor implements, such as plows, grain drills, planters, mowers, and binders; trolley buses; nonferrous metal and nonferrous metal alloy castings; gray cast iron and malleable cast iron castings; some types of commercial fertilizers, such as nitrogenous lime and

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superphosphates; sulfuric acid; tar pigments; paints and enamels; synthetic plastics, such as polyvinylchloride; synthetic viscose and "silon" fibers; drugs, such as penicillin, sulfonamides, and insulin; truck tires; refractory and magnesite brick; building panels; asbestos-cement water pipes; coniferous and deciduous lumber; paper; flat glass; and others.

The 1954 production plan was also surpassed in the following varieties of food products and industrial consumer goods: beef and veal; vegetable oils; wheat flour; chocolate and other candies; durable baked goods; soap; toothpaste; cotton, linen, semilinen, silk, and wool textiles; knitted outer garments; ladies' knitted and woven underwear; hosiery; leather and rubber footwear; handbags; canning jars; furniture; electric and gas ranges; home sewing machines; electric washing machines and refrigerators; baby-carriages; cellophane; bicycle tires and tubes; rubber toys; tennis balls; oilcloth; and others.

Despite the fact that the plan of industrial production was surpassed, the Ministry of Fuel and Power failed to complete the production plan for electricity; the Ministry of Metallurgy and Ore Mines failed to complete the plan for mining iron and manganese ore, pyrite concentrates, and the production of pig iron. The Ministry of the Chemical Industry failed to complete the production plan for "Ostrava" potassium nitrate, calcined soda, sodium hydroxide, and cord silk; the Ministry of Engineering failed to complete the production plan for steam boilers, diesel engines, steam and water turbines, main-line locomotives, freight and passenger cars, automobiles, motorcycles, cranes, roller bearings, radios, and metal houseware; the Ministry of Construction failed to complete the production plan for cement, lime, fired brick and roofing tile; the Ministry of Forests and the Lumber Industry failed to complete the production plan for cutting and hauling of timber; the Ministry of the Food Industry failed to complete the production plan for pork, milk, and butter as a result of the failure to complete the agricultural production plan; and the Ministry of the Local Economy failed to complete the production plan for fired brick and roofing tile.

Industrial Production Increase

Gross industrial production in 1954 was 4.4 percent greater than in 1953. Production of capital goods increased 4.2 percent, while production of consumer goods increased 4.7 percent, in the same period.

The following table shows the increase in production of specific products during 1954 over production in 1953:

<u>Product</u>	<u>Increase (%)</u>
Electricity	110
Hard coal (kamene uhli)	106
Brown coal (hnede uhli)	110
Lignite	113
Petroleum	103
Coke	104
Illuminating gas	108
Pyrite concentrate	122
Copper ore	117
Ferroalloys	137
Rolled products of raw [unrefined] steel	102
Unrefined steel shapes (medium grade)	104
Electrolytic copper	150
Refined steel tubing	109

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Product	Increase (%)
Steam boilers	3 times
Steam turbines	119
Diesel engines	152
Alternating-current generators	117
Drills	126
Grinders	2.1 times
Coal loaders for mines	2.4 times
Coal chutes for mines	176
Woodworking machines	144
Crawler excavators	165
Agricultural machinery, total	2.5 times
Tractors	127
Tractor-powered mowers	3.4 times
Buses	193
Motorcycles	120
Roller bearings	119
Nitrogenous fertilizers	110
Phosphorous fertilizers	121
Sulfuric acid	110
Sodium hydroxide	114
Polyvinylchloride	114
Cord silk [synthetic]	124
"Silon"	131
Penicillin	122
Cement	110
Lime	111
Fired brick	109
Roofing tile	120
Concrete building panels [prefabricated]	154
Asbestos-cement water pipes	2.2 times
Paper	104
Pork lard, raw	117
Tallow, raw	128
Edible fats	106
Dairy butter	105
Fish products	118
Cheese	139
Wheat flour	105
Perishable wheat baked goods	104
Confections (nonchocolate)	115
Durable baked goods	113
Nonalcoholic beverages	114
Brightly woven yard goods (satenka)	137
Suitings (plastove tkaniny)	3.8 times
Infants' outer clothing, knitted	128
Ladies' knitted and woven underwear	132
"Silon" hosiery	128
Rubber footwear	107
Enamelware [household]	111
Television sets	122
Electric stoves	128
Gas heaters	2.3 times
Electric vacuum cleaners	164
Electric refrigerators	2.4 times
Electric washers	3.4 times
Cameras	123
Furniture	112

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A definite improvement in the power [production] situation during the second half of 1954 was noted. Coal production also increased, in comparison with last year. However, not even partial improvement in the ore reserve was registered. Over-all production of basic goods by the metallurgical industry was not increased, despite the adequate supply of materials.

The engineering industry, whose expansion was slower than in previous years, underwent a substantial change in its production. Production of agricultural machines and steam turbines was substantially increased, as was the production of various types of consumer goods manufactured by the engineering industry. New machinery and equipment was produced for power, electrotechnical, and coal mining installations, and for other sectors of industry. However, the engineering industry had demonstrated some deficiencies, particularly the failure to maintain delivery schedules. Insufficient attention was devoted to economizing production and improving work organization. This was reflected in the unsatisfactory fulfillment of production cost plans.

The activation of new production capacities led to an increase in the production of the most important construction materials.

Production of industrial consumer goods and food was also substantially increased. The quality and variety of such goods, however, frequently failed to meet the desired standards, despite some definite improvements.

Certain improvements in the utilization of the means of production in some industrial sectors during 1954, particularly in the utilization of coal [mining] combines, coal loaders, and of equipment in the chemical and textile industries, were noted.

The number of coal [mining] combines in operation in 1954 was increased, and the average productivity of each combine was raised roughly 50 percent. The output of coal loading equipment improved from 11 to 27 percent over 1953. The output of excavators in strip mines also rose. Productivity of power shovels increased 10 percent; that of rotating excavators (kolesova rypadla) 12 percent; and of bucket excavators, 5 percent.

The number of workers in industry in 1954 was 2 percent greater than in 1953. Nevertheless, there was a continuous shortage of manpower in coal mines, iron ore mines of the Ministry of Metallurgy and Ore Mines, and timber cutting enterprises of the Ministry of Forests and the Lumber Industry.

The ratio between labor productivity and average worker wages has still not reached a satisfactory proportion. Labor productivity increased only 2 percent [in 1954], while average wages increased more rapidly. This was especially true of the Ministries of Fuel and Power, Engineering, and the Light Industry.

Labor turnover and absenteeism among workers decreased during 1954. Substantial absenteeism and labor turnover still existed in enterprises of the Ministry of Fuel and Power, in iron ore and manganese ore mines of the Ministry of Metallurgy and Ore Mines, and in timber cutting enterprises of the Ministry of Forests and the Lumber Industry.

Production costs in the production of comparable goods were roughly 1.5 percent lower in 1954 than in 1953. Planned reduction of production costs was not achieved. The Ministries of Fuel and Power, Metallurgy and Ore Mines, Engineering, and Construction did not complete the plans for reducing production costs.

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The number of rejects manufactured in industrial enterprises was still high. Enterprises of the Ministry of Metallurgy and Ore Mines had a lower number of rejects in 1954 than in 1953, but enterprises of the Ministries of Engineering and Construction maintained the same level of rejects as in 1953.

Even though the amount of surplus supplies in industry was decreased, the remaining amount is still excessive.

Geological research revealed some additional sources of raw materials, particularly coal, ore, and raw materials for the production of construction materials.

Despite some successes in industrial production, various significant deficiencies still remained.

Even though the gross production plan was completed, a number of enterprises failed to fulfill their tasks. The harmful practice of nonfulfillment of production plans for primary products prevailed in some ministries and in many enterprises.

Poor management, work organization, planning, and material supply caused irregular production. Many enterprises permitted production levels to fall at the start of planning periods and had to rush production toward the end. This led to unsatisfactory utilization of productive capacities, considerable waste, exceeding of wage funds, inadequate increases in labor productivity, and increased production costs.

Introduction of New Technology in the National Economy

Efforts were made in all branches of the national economy to further expand and introduce new technology. To raise the technical level of production, the Czechoslovak engineering [industry] produced many prototypes of machines and equipment for the power, the high-voltage and low-voltage electrotechnology, the coal and ore processing, and the chemical, woodworking, paper, and food industries.

Research on construction machinery led to the development and testing of methods to produce reinforced concrete ceiling panels. Prototypes of important road-building machinery were also completed.

The Ministry of Construction expanded its production of reinforced concrete beams.

Prototypes of Czechoslovak grain and beet combines, tractor-powered three-blade (trilistove) mowers, balers, silage combines, and a number of other machines, including a prototype of a tractor [mounted] manure loader, were completed for the agricultural industry in 1954.

The introduction of new technological processes and progressive work methods continued. For example, the mechanization of drilling and underground loading of ore in iron ore mines was substantially expanded.

Production of the highest quality spring wire from domestic raw materials was achieved in the metallurgical industry without impairing high standards of quality.

A method of cold welding gray cast iron with an electric arc was achieved, permitting, among other advantages, the conservation of scarce metals. New and more productive methods of welding were developed, and suitable materials were suggested, again permitting the conservation of scarce

STAT

suitable materials were suggested, again permitting the conservation of scarce metals. Substantial conservation of materials was achieved in the automobile industry, through series production of various parts by cold stamping.

The number of improvement suggestions put into practice in industry during 1954 reached roughly 40,000.

Despite the importance of introducing new machinery and equipment, technological processes, and progressive work methods, individual ministries failed to consistently devote their attention to these tasks. Consequently, plans for technical development were not completed to satisfaction.

Agriculture

The plan for sowing grain crops was completed 101 percent, and that for planting vegetables, 109 percent. The plan for planting row crops and fodder was not fulfilled. Only 98 percent of the total planned agricultural area was planted, and because of unfavorable spring weather, planting was delayed, compared to 1953.

Per-hectare yields of the following crops were higher in 1954 than in 1953, as indicated (in percent): beets, 3.8; chicory, 8.2; rape, 5.4; flax, 4.2; hops, 5.2; and oats, 9.6.

As a result of unfavorable climatic conditions, per-hectare yields of winter grains and potatoes were lower in some areas than planned. The total volume of crop production in 1954 was lower than in 1953. In 1954, 10 percent more land was plowed than in 1953. Deep plowing was carried out to a greater degree than in 1953, but time limits for plowing were not observed and the plan for plowing was completed only 93 percent.

Agricultural enterprises received 31 percent more nitrogenous, 12 percent more phosphorous, and 22 percent more potash fertilizers than in 1953.

The mechanization of agricultural labor was increased. In 1954, agricultural enterprises were provided with 8,900 tractors (calculated on the basis of 15 horsepower per tractor), 748 grain combines, 485 beet combines, 25 potato combines, 115 flax combines, 400 automatic threshers, 657 tractor-mounted binders, 5,800 tractor-mounted drills, 3,900 tractor-mounted mowers, more than 3,170 plows, almost 8,500 harrows, 2,700 disc plows, 3,750 cultivators, and other equipment.

In 1954, the total area cultivated by MTS was more than one million hectares greater than in 1953 and the MTS completed their plan 104 percent. The MTS cultivated more than four times as much land in 1954 as in 1953, harvested 52 percent more grain with combines, and lifted 64 percent more beets. Tractor breakdowns in 1954 decreased and labor productivity [in MTS?] increased. Nevertheless, the MTS failed to utilize their equipment fully. The average output per 15-horsepower tractor increased 5 percent over 1953. About 75 percent of all MTS work was performed on JZDs.

The volume of livestock production in 1954 was roughly 5 percent greater than in 1953, but the planned increase was not achieved.

At the end of 1954, there were 570,000 more hogs and over one million more fowls on hand than at the same time in 1953. The number of beef cattle and sheep was the same as in 1953.

STAT

In view of the fact that bulk-buying quotas were reduced, the state purchasing program resulted in purchasing more products at higher prices, particularly livestock products, resulting in higher profits for agricultural cooperatives and independent farmers.

The 1954 bulk-buying plan for slaughter cattle was completed 100 percent, while the bulk-buying plan for slaughter calves was completed 110 percent. Despite an increase in the average weight of slaughter hogs, deliveries failed to reach the planned level.

As a result of lower production of grain, potatoes, vegetables, fruit, and some other items, the bulk-buying plan for these goods was not completed. In the total 1954 [compulsory?] deliveries the socialist sector accounted for 51 percent of the meat, 59 percent of the slaughter hogs, and 44 percent of the milk delivered.

In accordance with the directives of the Tenth Congress of the KSC, bulk-buying prices of some agricultural products were again increased, delivery quotas reduced, and prices of commercial fertilizers and seeds reduced, as were the fees for MTS services. JZDs and independent farmers who fulfilled their crop deliveries in 1954 had their delinquent deliveries from 1953 canceled. Additional investment and operational credits were also extended to JZDs in 1954.

As of 1 October 1954, the socialist sector operated 44 percent of all arable land in Czechoslovakia. Some improvements in the management of the state farms and JZDs were noted. State farms planted many crops faster, achieved higher per-hectare yields, increased the milk productivity of their dairy cows, and increased the average weights of their slaughtered cattle. JZDs made average improvements in management and, in many crops, achieved higher per-hectare yields than independent farmers.

The afforestation of barren regions and sparsely covered areas of existing woodlands continued. In 1954, trees were planted on 5,000 more hectares than in 1953. Fire-breaks were established on 420 hectares. Almost 95,000 hectares were afforested during 1954, fulfilling 98 percent of the planned goal. In 1954, 13,000 hectares more land was prepared for forest cultivation than in 1953.

Transportation and Communications

The total volume of freight moved during 1954 was 8 percent greater than in 1953. This included a 4.2-percent increase in rail freight and a 16.2-percent increase in freight hauled by truck. The average gross weight of freight trains increased to 102 percent of the weight plan; the average load of each car was 2.6 percent greater than in 1953.

By the end of 1954, the railroad transportation system had not succeeded in removing all shortcomings. Loading plans were not fulfilled, disrupting the rhythmic operation of the railroad system. Regularity of passenger as well as freight trains did not improve substantially. Regularity in loading and unloading improved progressively with each quarter. Freight car turnaround time actually increased above that allowed by the plan and above last year. In 1954, no reduction in the rate of damages to railroad cars was noted. The 1954 passenger transportation plan was completed 101.4 percent and 3.7 percent more passengers were handled than in 1953.

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Construction of double-track lines continued. The Roznava-Turna nad Bodvou line in eastern Slovakia was virtually completed. Additional new steam and electric locomotives and a substantial number of freight cars were added to the rolling stock inventory during 1954.

The CSAD [Ceskoslovenska automobilova doprava, Czechoslovak Automobile Transport] Enterprise fulfilled the 1954 highway freight transportation plan for tonnage hauled, 104.1 percent. The volume of goods transported [by the CSAD] was 16.2 percent greater than in 1953. The activity of the CSAD was further expanded through the formation of a partnership between the CSAD and the CSD [Ceskoslovenske Statni drahy, Czechoslovak State Railroads].

CSAD buses transported 4.9 percent more passengers in 1954 than in 1953. Service was improved through addition of new buses and through the expansion of bus lines.

Despite unfavorable navigation conditions, water transportation [enterprises] carried the same volume of goods and almost the same number of passengers in 1954 as in 1953.

About 3.9 percent more passengers traveled by air than in 1953.

From the standpoint of the main indexes, the communications system surpassed the plan in 1954. New radio transmitters were built, and long-distance telephone centrals were established in a number of cities in the Czech provinces, as well as in Slovakia. The planned number of telephone subscribers was exceeded by 5.9 percent.

The number of persons holding radio permits was 2.5 percent greater in 1954 than in 1953. The number of television-set owners increased, as did the number of wired-radio listeners.

The installation of telephones in MTS, state farms, and JZDs progressed during 1954 and at the end of 1954, 70 percent of the MTS, 78 percent of the state farms, and 25 percent of the JZDs had telephone service.

Investment-Construction

The total volume of 1954 investments remained at about the same level as that of 1953. Investments in agriculture, housing, and cultural and social provisions increased. Investment in the construction of power plants was 7 percent greater than in 1953; investments in agriculture virtually doubled; investments in housing were 39 percent greater, and investments in cultural and social provisions increased 82 percent over those of 1953.

The amount of construction under way was reduced, and investments were concentrated on the completion of projects to be put into use during 1954, and on the construction of the most important projects.

During 1954, Czechoslovakia achieved additional productive capacity. Most of the ministries, however, failed to put these additional means into operation within the specified term, primarily because machinery and equipment were not available in time.

In the fuel and power industry, new thermal electric, hydroelectric, and steam-electric power plants, with a total capacity of 450 megawatts, were built; new mining equipment was installed, including one mining machine, two excavators, and one grader and a washer for black coal. A new lignite mine was put into operation.

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During 1954, the metallurgy and ore mines industry added one rolling mill (kontisochorova valcovaci trat), an agglomeration [conveyer] belt, a forge, one coking battery, 80 electrolytic baths for the production of aluminum, and an aluminum foundry. The capacity for mining of pyrites was expanded.

In the chemical industry, the capacity for the production of nitrogenous fertilizers, viscose fibers, and other products was expanded. A new installation for the production of cryolite was built.

The Ministry of Engineering put into operation new factory power plants, transformer stations, and equipment for the production of diesel engines, tractors, roller bearings, and forges. Installations for the production of automobiles were also expanded. The capacity for the production of construction materials was expanded, primarily through the addition of one large new cement plant and the enlargement of another. One gypsum mine was put into operation, and production of bricks and prefabricated construction materials was expanded.

In light industry, the capacity of flax retting and scutching plants was expanded and new weaving mills were put into operation.

In the paper and lumber industry, one distillery for the production of wood (sulfitovy) alcohol, one cigarette paper plant, and one sawmill were put into operation during 1954.

During 1954, a number of new production shops and warehouses were built, as were various waterworks and sewer systems, highways, and other means of communication.

During 1954, 28,000 apartments (bytove jednotky), with a total living area of almost one million square meters, were turned over for occupancy. The plan for allocation of housing was not fulfilled. In addition to this housing, construction was begun on 38,000 apartments.

Construction of an additional 12,000 family homes was begun through "self-help" and state credit. Several thousand housing units were also built privately.

Some 33 new schools containing 10,830 desk spaces were built, and six school buildings were enlarged by the addition of 720 desk spaces.

The Ministry of Construction and other ministries fulfilled the 1954 state construction and assembly plans 94.5 percent. The total volume of such construction increased 7 percent over that of 1953.

The number of workers in construction and assembly activities decreased from that of 1953. Labor productivity in construction in 1954 was almost 8 percent above that of 1953. Mechanization of construction work largely permitted this increase in labor productivity. At the end of 1954, 14 percent more bulldozers, 12 percent more dump trucks, and 2 percent more scrapers were in service than at the end of 1953.

During 1954, there was an increase in the application of progressive work methods, particularly the assembly-line construction method (proudovy zpusob staveni), new methods of plastering, construction of houses with brick panels, transportation of bricks in sets (sady), etc. The construction industry did not, however, utilize all possibilities for expanding these methods. Increased mechanization of construction work and expansion of progressive work methods did result in a further decrease in production costs within the industry, but the planned level of reduction was not achieved.

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Development of the Standard of Living and Cultural Activities

The standard of living improved substantially during 1954. Individual consumption (osobni spotreba) [of all types of commodities?] increased 16 percent over last year.

The 1 April 1954 retail price reduction, the third since the currency reform, permitted the population to save 5.9 billion crowns for the year. Reductions in income taxes permitted a saving of over one billion crowns.

At the end of 1954, employment was 3 percent higher than at the end of 1953. Employment of women increased 6 percent. Women accounted for 36 percent of the total labor force. The average monthly wages of the workers also increased. As a result of an increase in the average nominal wage and the reduction of retail prices, real wages rose. Through the reduction of prices of industrial goods and the increase in bulk-buying prices of agricultural products, the real income of agricultural workers was also increased.

Increased nominal and real incomes were reflected in increased deposits in state savings banks. During 1954, deposits increased by more than one billion crowns, and the number of depositor's passbooks also increased.

In terms of comparable figures, retail turnover during 1954 was 20 percent above that of 1953. The total turnover plan was surpassed.

Sales of the following foodstuffs increased as indicated over 1953 (in percent): rice, 112; sugar, 19; canned meat products, 34; eggs, 21; wine, 15; coffee, 56; wheat flour, 3; milk, 2; and poultry, 7. Because of inadequate production, the sale of meat increased only 3 percent over 1953. Sales of bread decreased 4 percent, while sales of higher-quality baked goods increased 11 percent over 1953. Sales of butter increased 29 percent, while sales of vegetable fats decreased 3.5 percent. Sales of legumes, cheese, and confections increased substantially over last year.

More industrial goods were purchased in 1954 than in 1953. Sales of selected industrial goods increased as follows over 1953 (in percent): woolen fabrics, 51; cotton fabrics, 17; linen fabrics, 21; outer garments, 38; leather dress footwear, 15; rubber footwear, 24; soap, 25; radios, 114; bicycles, 28; roofing tile, 13; and bricks, 19. Sales of refrigerators rose 5.2 times; washers, 3.8 times; sewing machines, 2.5 times; cement, 2.5 times, and silk fabrics, 2.2 times, over those of 1953.

The selection of consumer goods was expanded by the addition of new varieties of goods. The variety of meat and fish products, bakery and confectionary goods, milk products, poultry products, candies and durable baked goods, soaps and cosmetic products, and other goods was expanded. A new type of television set with a radio receiver, new types of radios and radio-phonograph combinations, high-quality enamelware, extruded aluminum houseware, new types of footwear, and new patterns of knitted wear were put on sale; new types of toys, sporting goods, photographic equipment, and other goods also became available.

Some new types of special goods, such as ladies' Perlon underwear, high-quality cheese, tobacco products, citrus fruits, and other goods, were imported.

Services to the population were improved during 1954 by the addition of new sales outlets handling a wide variety of goods. Rural trade was also expanded.

STAT

Turnover in communal dining establishments increased over that of 1953. Restaurants and other public dining establishments registered a 17-percent increase, while turnover in enterprise kitchens and canteens increased 7 percent.

Additional laundries were put into operation during 1954, and the service for collecting laundry and garments [for dry cleaning?] was expanded. Additional enterprises for the repair of clothes and laundry, home and kitchen appliances were opened or expanded. Service organizations, advertising, and window and home cleaning services were established and expanded, as were such enterprises as florist shops.

The quality of services rendered to the population, particularly in entertainment and hostelry and in the maintenance of residential and apartment property, was not satisfactory.

During 1954, 13 new city baths were opened and existing bathing facilities expanded. New waterworks were constructed in 33 obeces, new sewer systems in 13 obeces. During 1954, about 280 kilometers of waterworks and 121 kilometers of sewers were built and some 30,000 various structures were connected to water systems.

The city transportation network [in Prague?] was expanded by 10.4 kilometers, and the number of passengers carried was 7.6 percent greater than in 1953.

The expansion of the educational system continued during 1954. During the 1954-1955 academic year, 3.4 percent more students attended kindergarten than in 1953. The number of students in general educational institutions increased 4 percent in 1954. During the 1954-1955 academic year, almost 75,000 students enrolled in the ninth grade of 11-year middle schools and in specialized schools of all types. Grades nine through 11 of the 11-year middle school were attended by 61,000 students, while almost 138,000 students are enrolled in specialized schools, including 60,000 students in industrial schools, 29,000 in schools of economics (hospodarske skoly), and almost 17,000 in public health schools (zdravotnicke skoly). In addition to these regular students, some 34,000 workers are taking evening, correspondence, and nonresidence courses in specialized schools. Almost 49,000 students are enrolled at 40 advanced schools of all types during the 1954-1955 academic year. This figure, which is 3 percent greater than the 1953 advanced school enrollment, includes 11,000 female students. More than one half of all the students are specializing in technical studies.

Approximately 35 percent of the graduates of elementary schools go on to study at middle or specialized schools. About 31 percent of the graduates of middle and specialized schools go on to study at advanced schools.

Almost 22,000 workers are studying in special groups (mimoradne formy) at advanced schools. In 1954, over 65,000 young qualified workers completed studies at mining and railroading schools of the state labor reserve and at enterprise apprentice schools.

During 1954, 64 professional theaters presented 25,000 dramatic productions, which were attended by almost 12 million persons. At the end of 1954, the 3,450 state motion-picture theaters had presented almost one million showings, which were attended by 150 million persons, or 7 percent more than in 1953. Some 529 films, including 22 full-length features, were produced in Czechoslovakia in 1954.

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More copies of newspapers and other literature were printed in 1954 than in 1953, and four new creative arts galleries were built in 1954.

In 1954, the expansion and improvement of medical care continued. The number of hospitals increased by 41, and new specialized divisions, attended by medical specialists, were added to a number of existing hospitals and medical centers. Some 5,600 beds were added to institutions for the infirm, including 4,000 beds in hospitals, 800 in specialized health institutes and nursing homes, and 750 in obstetrical institutes, infant institutes, and children's homes.

Positions for medical personnel in various enterprise medical installations increased by 113. New enterprise hospitals were established in Gottwaldov and in Ostrava-Kuncice.

The number of [medical personnel?] positions in nurseries increased by more than 850 in 1954.

About 105,000 persons participated in winter recreation activities at ROH [Revoluční odborové hnutí, Revolutionary Trade Union Movement] rest centers. About 163,000 persons took advantage of summer recreation at these centers, while 3,600 took advantage of ROH-sponsored tourist activities. Tens of thousands of workers and their dependents took advantage of recreation facilities at enterprise recreation centers.

A great deal of attention was devoted to physical training and sports. In 1954, construction of playgrounds, athletic tracks, and other physical training facilities, by means of "self-help," was begun.

Care for the aged and disabled was also improved. During 1954, 13 rest homes and two nursing homes were opened, and the number of beds in rest homes and nursing homes increased by 1,400.

At the end of 1954, the State Social Security Office (Statní úrad duchodového zabezpečení) was making payments to 1.9 million persons. About 6.8 billion crowns was paid out in social security payments during 1954. This is 12 percent more than in 1953. New forms of social care were also being added. About 61,000 physically handicapped persons were provided with suitable employment. Some 13,000 persons living alone were provided with communal dining privileges. A total of 4.6 billion crowns was paid out in health insurance payments and family allotments. The death rate in 1954 was reduced to ten deaths per 1,000 inhabitants. Infant mortality was reduced from 45 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1953, to 37 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1954. The natural population increase in Czechoslovakia in 1954 was more than one percent. In Slovakia, this increase was almost 2 percent. In 1954, the population of Czechoslovakia numbered over 13 million.

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